

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
Office of Archives and History  
Department of Cultural Resources

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Troy Residential Historic District**

Troy, Montgomery County, MG0059, Listed 8/23/2006  
Nomination by Edward F. Turberg  
Photographs by Janet Seapker, April 2005



North Main Street, looking northeast

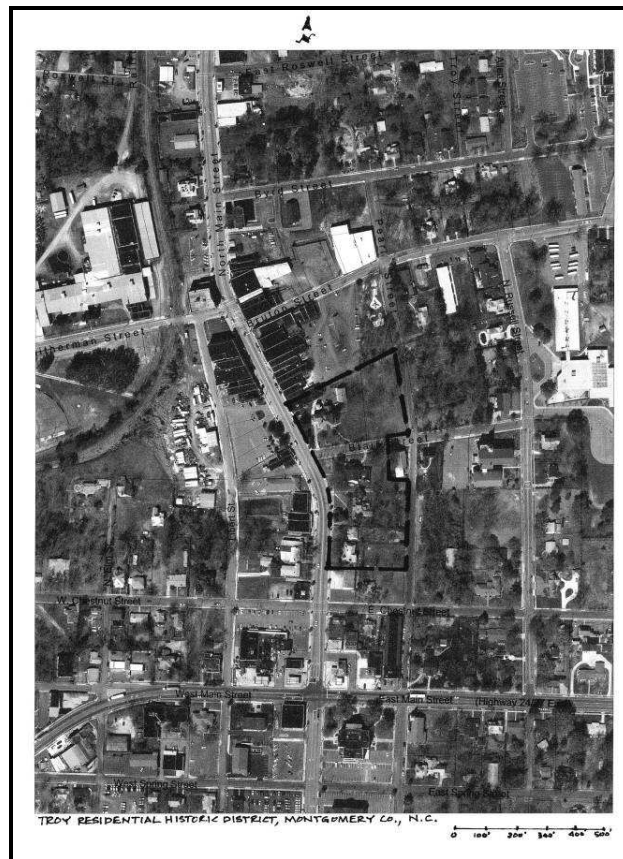


Joseph Reese Blair House





Bruton-Allen House



Historic District Aerial Map

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of property**

historic name Troy Residential Historic District  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number East side of North Main Street from one lot north of Chestnut Street to  
one lot north of Blair Street, and 105 Blair Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Troy vicinity N/A  
state North Carolina code NC county Montgomery code 123 zip code 27371

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide x locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official                      Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

     entered in the National Register.  
     See continuation sheet.

     determined eligible for the National Register.  
     See continuation sheet.

     determined not eligible for the National Register.

     removed from the National Register.

     other (explain):

Troy Residential Historic District  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, NC  
County and State

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

#### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

#### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

N/A

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:

DOMESTIC

DOMESTIC

Sub:

single dwelling

secondary structure

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:

DOMESTIC

DOMESTIC

Sub:

single dwelling

secondary structure

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival, Other: Minimal Traditional

#### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	brick, stone
roof	slate, metal, asphalt
walls	brick, wood, stucco
other	

#### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Troy Residential Historic District  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, NC  
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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or a grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

#### Period of Significance

1871-1940

#### Significant Dates

1871, 1898, 1903, 1940

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Linthicum, Hill Carter , architect;  
Beaman, William B., builder

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Property

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**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**                      Approximately 6 acres

**UTM References**

Zone 17 Easting 600520 Northing 3913400

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Edward F. Turberg, Architectural Historian

organization Consultant to Town of Troy

date August 25, 2005

street & number 307 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street

telephone 910-762-6301

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**12. Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Troy Residential Historic District  
Name of Property

Montgomery County, NC  
County and State

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple owners

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Troy Residential Historic District  
Montgomery County, North Carolina

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### Narrative Description

Troy, the county seat of Montgomery County, North Carolina, is a small Piedmont town of 3,457 people (2002 census), situated at an elevation of 500 feet above sea level, nine miles east of the Pee Dee River and four miles northwest of Little River. The town stands at the eastern entrance to the mountainous 50,189-acre Uwharrie National Forest, a densely forested wilderness with rounded hills rising to heights of 1,000 feet. The public land, comprising more than half of Montgomery County, was acquired by the U. S. Government in 1931 and declared a National Forest in 1961, during the presidency of John F. Kennedy.

The Troy Residential Historic District, extending north along the ridge of a hill, comprises four residences on the east side of the 300-block of North Main Street and one residence in the 100-block of Blair Street. Four houses date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, while the fifth was built in 1940. The two-story Blair House at 105 Blair Street is brick veneer and features a wraparound porch intersected by a classical portico across the front, south, elevation. A modern four-car garage is located to the northeast of the house. The story-and-a-half Mills-Thompson House at 226 North Main Street is also brick veneer with a Tuscan order porch across the front. The two-and-a-half-story Wade-Arscott House at 214 North Main Street is of frame construction and incorporates a wraparound porch that encircles a tower at the southwest corner of the structure. The two-story Bruton-Allen House is also of frame construction and is dominated by a full-height engaged portico. A one-story kitchen wing is attached to the rear of the main block, and two outbuildings occupy the yard adjacent to the wing. The one-story, frame, Thompson Rental House at 218 North Main Street has an L-plan and a central entrance opening on to a brick stoop.

All of the resources in the Troy Historic Residential District exhibit a high level of design and craftsmanship that are evident in the well-scaled proportions of the houses; window, door and architectural trim; handsome brick and stone masonry; multi-paned stained and colored glass; and broad verandas where families and friends gathered along front porches for informal social, business, and political discussions.

To the south of the Troy Historic Residential District is Courthouse Square, containing



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the imposing Neoclassical Revival-style Montgomery County Courthouse (NR, 1979) designed in 1921 by architects Benton & Benton of Wilson, NC, to replace an earlier frame structure that burned in 1919. North of the Troy Historic Residential District are two blocks of well-integrated one- to three-story commercial buildings forming the heart of the business area of Troy.

### Inventory List

The inventory list provides information about each resource located within the Troy Residential Historic District including address, historic name, construction date, contributing or noncontributing status, and a brief description of physical appearance and history. Descriptions are based upon on-site observation, investigation of Sanborn Map Company insurance maps (three sets were produced: in 1908, 1925 and 1943), historic photographs, historical publications, and information relating to the town's history and architecture provided by residents of the Blair and Bruton-Allen houses. Two publications that were extremely helpful in understanding Troy's history and family genealogy—as well as documentary photographs of buildings in the town—were Mable S. Lassiter's *Patterns of Timeless Moments* (1976) and Winnie Ingram Richter's *Montgomery County Heritage* (1981). The Troy Residential Historic District resources are listed according to their street addresses, beginning at 105 Blair Street at the northeast corner of Blair and North Main streets, and then running south to north along the east side of North Main Street to encompass resources at 214, 218, 226 and 232 North Main Street. Contributing buildings are resources dating to the period of significance with sufficient integrity. Noncontributing resources date from after the period of significance.

### North side of Blair Street

105    **Joseph Reese Blair House** (1893; 1903)       Contributing building

An imposing, two-story, brick veneer residence, the Joseph Reese Blair House exhibits the Neoclassical Revival style in Troy at its highest level. The centerpiece of the design is a full-height portico dominated by paired, fluted, giant-order columns with Ionic capitals. The portico is intersected by a one-story wraparound porch and porte-cochere featuring similar columns. The central entrance is

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highlighted by a glazed-panel door frames by broad sidelights and a tripartite, stained-glass transom. The multi-light windows at the first story also contain stained glass transoms which survive from the original 1893 design of the house. The focus of the interior is a massive, freestanding central staircase, flanked by tall, angled newel posts and turned balustrades, that rises to a rear landing and then returns in two short flights to the front of the upper hall. The style of the staircase, mantels in the adjacent rooms and elaborate floor, wall and ceiling woodwork are intact features of the Queen Anne house. The original 1893 work was the result of a contract between Joseph Reese Blair and his contractor, William B. Beaman (1854-1921) which directed the builder to copy the Bradshaw House in Asheboro with the exception that the hallway should be widened by two feet to accommodate a central staircase with room for passage on each side. The result is one of two spectacular examples of unrestrained enthusiasm and imagination in the art of woodworking (the other example is the double staircase in the Bruton-Allen House across the street). In 1903, with architectural tastes changing, Blair engaged Durham architect Hill Carter Linthicum (1860-1919) to transform the exterior of the house into a Neoclassical Revival style. The interiors, however, remained virtually intact from Beaman's design. The first level contains a front parlor, library, dining and sitting room, en suite bedroom and a large kitchen. Three en suite bedrooms occupy the upper story. A later addition at the northwest corner of the main block was built in 2003 to provide a private apartment. To the northeast of the house is a modern, one-story, three-car, brick veneer garage.

### East Side of North Main Street

214 **Wade-Arscott House** (1871; 1890s)

Contributing building

A notable example of Queen Anne architecture in Troy is the two-and-a-half-story Wade-Arscott House, a rambling frame residence that is enlivened by widely spaced windows, a one-story wraparound porch supported by square posts and enclosed by plain balustrades, a cylindrical, weatherboarded and shingled tower capped by a helmet roof at the southwest corner of the structure, and a peaked gable dormer incorporating a recessed balcony. Two entrances afford access to the house: from Main Street, steps lead to a central bay containing a four-panel door

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framed by paneled sidelights and a three-section transom; on the south side, similar steps rise from the driveway to the porch where a glazed upper-panel door opens into a narrow stair hall. Windows contain two-over-two sash within simple frames, but the upper story of the tower is enlivened by small-paned curved sash containing colored glass inserts. A heavy cornice surrounds the house and the gabled roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. A large central chimney rises through the roof ridge, while a secondary flue marks the location of the kitchen in the rear wing. Inside, the house appears to have two separate construction dates. Marks in the floors and walls of the North section indicate that the two-story house originally contained two rooms, with four Greek Revival-style mantels, two-panel doors and a staircase in the Northeast corner of the North room. According to Richter's *Montgomery County Heritage*, this portion was built in 1871 for Christopher Columbus Wade (1837-1915), Judge of Probate and his wife, Sarah Margaret DeBerry (1845-1920). In the 1890s he enlarged the structure by removing the walls and stairs in the old section, and extending the house to the south with a wraparound porch, cylindrical tower, and a new entrance and staircase opening to the South porch. The property was purchased in 1945 by Lloyd Arscott (1901-1967), owner of an office supply business in Troy, and his wife, Millie Blake (1906-1996).

218 **Thompson Rental House** (1940) Contributing building

A one-story, frame house of a Minimal Traditional style popular in the post-World War II era, the three-bay by three-bay, L-plan house features a slightly projecting right front bay containing an angled bay window and attic vent; a central entrance with a multi-panel door, and paired, four-over-four horizontal-pane sash windows popularized in the 1940s. The gabled roofs are covered with asphalt shingles, and two interior chimneys rise through the main ridge and the east roof slope. According to a neighbor, Claudia Blair Bulthuis, construction was finished at the end of the year, and the owners wrapped the house in oil-cloth for Christmas.

226 **Mills-Thompson House** (1890; 1930) Contributing building

This one-and-a-half-story, brick veneer residence of Neoclassical Revival style is

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five bays wide and six bays deep, with projecting, angular bay windows flanking the central front entrance. The entrance features a multi-pane door surrounded by paneled sidelights and a trabeated transom containing small glass panes. The windows have four small panes above elongated panes in the upper sash, and single lights in the lower sash. Rowlock bricks form the window sills, while soldier-course bricks are laid across the lintels. A five-bay, hip-roofed porch, supported by Tuscan order columns extends across the center and angled bays, and a projecting pediment rises above masonry steps and tripartite corner columns enframing the front entrance. A square, pedimented dormer containing paired sash occupies the central bay above the entrance. The roof terminates at the north and south in brick gables, and rises to a high hip to incorporate the dormer. The roof is covered by fish-scale asphalt shingles. The house was built in 1890 for William J. Mills and his wife, Emma Jane Martin (b. 1866). The Queen Anne style incorporated an angular front porch, truncated octagonal tower at the southwest corner, a pedimented gable at the northwest corner and a central dormer containing an arched balcony. In 1895, Alexander Frank Thompson (1871-1936), who established a sanatorium on North Main Street in 1909, purchased the house and, in 1930, removed the Queen Anne exteriors detail, covered the walls with brick veneer, added gable end wings and installed the Tuscan order porch.

**232 Bruton-Allen House (1898; 1927)**

Contributing building

The Classical Revival style, two-story, gable-end, frame residence is five bays wide and two bays deep. An engaged front two-story portico is dominated by five full-height square posts capped by square cushion moldings which rise to a plain frieze and a gently-curving cat-slide roof. The principal entrance in the central bay consists of a multi-paneled door, a louvered screen door, and paneled sidelights surmounted by a multi-paned semi-elliptical fanlight. In the second story above the entrance are French doors and transoms opening to a bracketed balcony encircled by a plain iron railing. Windows are generally tripartite in arrangement: six-over-one center sash flanked by four-over-one sash. These terminate in molded architraves. The north side elevation incorporates a hip-roofed *porte-cochere* balanced on the south side by a hip-roofed solarium enclosed by French doors, sidelights, and transoms. Single-leaf French doors are also located in the lower left

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front bay, and beneath the *porte-cochere*, the latter entrance accessible by a flight of six brick steps. Paired attic windows containing four-over-one sash in the end gables. The roof ridge is punctuated by two stuccoed chimneys, each containing paired flues and capped by metal deflectors. A one-story, L-plan kitchen and service wing with two-over-two window sash is attached to the east end of the main block. In 1927, the house underwent a dramatic alteration from its original appearance. Originally a buoyant Queen Anne style design with a tall central tower flanked by steep attic gables and a spindly double story wraparound porch, the exterior was converted into a stately Classical Revival style house with a broad portico, stout, square columns, tripartite sash windows and a *porte-cochere* on the north side balanced by a solarium on the south. The only surviving exterior details of the original house are the curvilinear walls flanking the entrance bay and the sash windows and frames in the rear wing. The interior also was changed by the replacement of some mantels and wainscoting, and installation of French doors between rooms. The central staircase, however, remains intact as a testament to the top-notch technical and artistic flair of the builder: double runs rise from the front and rear of a circular hall, meet at a landing part way up, then deflect to the left and right to terminate in a cross-hall at the second level. Turned balustrades, paneled newel posts and stair stringers, spindled arch grilles and beaded wainscoting complete the elaborate woodwork of the hall. Two, one-story, frame mid-twentieth century non-contributing outbuildings stand in the yard to the south and east of the kitchen wing.



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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary

The Troy Residential Historic District meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion C in the area of architecture. The local significance of the district extends over a period from 1871 through 1940, from the construction of the original portion of the Wade-Arscott House at 214 North Main Street through the completion of the Thompson Rental House at 216 North Main Street at the end of 1940. The significance of the five residences in the Troy Residential Historic District is manifested by the high quality of architectural design ranging from Queen Anne to Neoclassical Revival and Minimal Traditional styles. Four of the five houses were built during the latter part of the nineteenth century and originally exhibited the irregular form, projecting bays, wraparound porches and steep roofs that distinguish the Queen Anne style. One structure, the Wade-Arscott House, preserves those elements on the exterior; while the Mills-Thompson, Bruton-Allen and Blair houses, altered in the twentieth century in the Neoclassical Revival style, only retain their Queen Anne features on the interior. The small Thompson Rental House, the last of the group, reflects the simplified architectural treatment of housing during the time period immediately preceding World War II.

Troy, the county seat of Montgomery County, is encircled by the Uwharrie mountain range, twelve miles east of the Pee Dee River and forty-five miles north of the South Carolina border. Although the region was settled during the late eighteenth century, it was not until 1852 that land was set aside for construction of a county courthouse and commercial buildings. The town was named in honor of John B. Troy, a local attorney, who operated a school in neighboring Randolph County and represented the region in the state General Assembly (Lassiter, 286). The town developed into an important center for agriculture, timber, stone and gravel resources, spurred by the discovery of gold in the mountains north of town and the construction of a railroad system stretching from the state capital at Raleigh southwest to Charlotte.

The Troy Residential Historic District forms the nucleus of a significant period of architectural and community development set within the heart of the Piedmont town.

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Three of the five residences bordering North Main Street present an imposing picture of the prosperity of the citizens and their community pride during the 1890s and early 1900s, a time of great economic, political and social development. The foremost example of this advance is visible in the Blair House at 105 Blair Street, two-story, a Neoclassical Revival design distinguished by fine brickwork; numerous large windows; an entrance containing a beveled glass door, sidelights and transoms; one-story wraparound porches and a soaring front portico with clustered, colossal-order columns. Across the street, the frame Bruton-Allen House continues the classical motif with a tall, full-width front portico supported by square posts; tripartite windows and a central entrance highlighted by a semi-elliptical fanlight. The brick veneer Thompson House on an adjacent lot repeats the classical theme with its five-bay porch consisting of single and clustered Tuscan columns, a pedimented entrance bay, and a symmetrical roof line accentuated by a large pedimented dormer. All three houses are especially important because they originated, not as Neoclassical Revival designs, but were exuberant examples of the most elaborate decorative fashions of the Victorian period: the Queen Anne style, complete with sawn woodwork, shingles, stained glass, balconies, turrets and towers. The Blair House preserves its colored glass window transoms at the first level, both the Blair House and the Bruton-Allen houses have balconies above their front entrances and porte-cocheres in the side elevations, and the Blair, Bruton-Allen and Thompson houses preserve their original stairs, mantels and other Victorian woodwork. Farther south along Main Street, the Arscott House retains its Queen Anne characteristics of asymmetrical plan, wraparound porch, tall corner tower with curved-glass window sash, stained glass, and patterned shingles. The last of this quintet of architectural variety is the 1940 Minimal Traditional house that occupies the site between the Thompson and Arscott residences. The diminutive scale of the dwelling, its asymmetrical plan and projecting bay window makes it appear to be a wing of the adjacent buildings, but the overall character of the structure relates more to a traditional style popularized in numerous tract houses built before and after World War II.

### Architectural Context

The residential architectural resources of Troy can be categorized as late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century designs, comprising Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival and Minimal Traditional styles that were widely popular during the late-nineteenth and early-

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twentieth centuries. It was a period of rapid adoption of architectural fashions, motivated by the role of the railroad in transporting building materials to town and rural sites, the distribution of design books and construction catalogues, and the influx of carpenters and masons into the area. In addition to materials brought in from other railroad-served areas, Montgomery County and Troy had an abundance of structural timber, siding, shingles, clay, stone, and slate in the vicinity to provide for any sort of construction that was needed or desired by owners and builders. During the late-nineteenth century, the popular Queen Anne style proliferated throughout the Piedmont region of North Carolina, an area encompassing commercial centers such as Greensboro, High Point and Salisbury, as well as recreational retreats such as Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Jackson Springs. Examples of Victorian and Edwardian period architecture abounded in the several resort hotels encircled by golf courses and pine groves: the Carolina and Holly Inn at Pinehurst (NR, 1973), the Inn at Jackson Springs (destroyed in 1932), the Central Hotel in Asheboro, and the Seaboard and Commercial Hotels in Hamlet whose grand and turreted depot (NR, 1971) stands at the crossing of major east-west and north-south rail lines. Fashionable homes flourished on landscaped grounds in neighboring Randolph, Moore, Stanly and Catawba counties, influencing owners and builders to duplicate their designs. In Asheboro, the 1892 William Penn Wood house on East Salisbury Street is strikingly similar to the original 1893 form and appearance of the Blair House in Troy. The latter's evolution from the Queen Anne to Neoclassical Revival style in 1903 is closely akin to the 1897 Arthur Ross House on Sunset Avenue in Asheboro. The 1898 Fox-Ingold House at 121 Fifth Avenue, NE in Hickory has angular porches, turrets, and decorative dormers that are almost identical to those on the original design of the Thompson House in Troy. The original form of the Bruton-Allen House consisted of a double-story front porch similar in its ostentation to the F. F. DeBerry House in Mt. Gilead.

Although the names of the architects and builders of most of the structures is undocumented, the Blair House is known to have been constructed by Troy contractor William B. Beaman (1854-1921). A contract, dated December 19, 1893, between Blair and Beaman, calls for the construction of the Blair House, at the northeast corner of North Main and Blair streets, specifying that the builder will duplicate the design of the Bradshaw House in Asheboro (twenty-five miles north of Troy, in Randolph County), but with the entrance hall two feet wider and the staircase situated in the center of the hall. Ten years after Beaman completed work on the Blair House, the owner decided to have

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the Queen Anne style residence altered into a Neoclassical Revival design currently in vogue. Hill Carter Linthicum, a Durham, North Carolina architect, and later the first president of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, was engaged to produce new drawings to transform the exterior of the house while preserving many of the interior Queen Anne features such as the stairs, fireplaces, woodwork and colored glass windows. Linthicum is also credited with designs for the 1892 Edgar Vaughn House in Winstorn-Salem, the 1935-1937 National Guard Armory (now Cape Fear Museum) in Wilmington, and other residential and public architecture in the state. Both the 1893 builder's contract and the 1903 architect's drawings and specifications remain in the possession of the Blair family who continue to reside in the house.

Another important local builder, William Thaddeus (Will) Haywood (1880-1945), a Mt. Gilead engineer who listed himself as an architect in the 1910 census, is credited with erecting the Methodist and Baptist churches and several private residences in Montgomery and adjacent counties. Other builders of the region were Dewitt Holt (1882-1971) and Clovis Ralph Blake (1879-1948) who constructed both commercial and residential structures in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### Historical Background and Community Development

The first permanent settlement in Montgomery County was Lawrenceville, settled as the county seat in 1816, but replaced by a more centrally located county seat in 1842. Angus McCaskill gave fifty acres for the establishment of Troy, equidistant from Drowning Creek on the east, the Pee Dee River on the west, and close by the Little River flowing through the Uwharrie Mountains.

Troy differed from other towns in the county because court days meant an influx of people gathering together from farms and rural communities in the county to conduct legal affairs. Accommodations and shops were needed since families often came to purchase store-bought items on those rare occasions when they visited the county seat. Shortly after the Civil War, William Lassiter and Captain Duncan McRae opened hotels in Troy. By the end of the century, George Washington Allen and his family provided bed and board for court attendees and traveling businessmen passing through the area, and by 1895 the railroad reached Troy and brought with it the establishment of cotton,

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lumber and carpet mills. Among other activities found in Troy at the beginning of the twentieth century were a village blacksmith, a cotton gin, three barbers, a movie theater, household appliance and furniture stores, and several fraternal organizations.

Many of the early families in Troy continue to prosper in the twenty-first century, their names linked with electric power, real estate development, timber operations, dairies, groceries, restaurants and lodgings. Among the scions of the city were John Calvin Bruton who moved to Troy, in 1896, became a merchant, manufacturer of cross-arms for telegraph poles, and Justice of the Peace for several terms. George W. Allen (1847-1937), opened the G. W. Allen and Son mercantile business and built one of the first hotels in the county seat (Lassiter, p. 232). In 1917, A. Leon Capel (1900-1972), organized the Capel Rug Mill which grew to be the largest of its type in the world. Prior to 1917, he made plow lines, but the advent of farm machinery drove him to find an article that was easily made and useful in a majority of households. "Not to be outdone with the thousands of feet of rope he had on hand, Capel began a two-machine operation of the rug industry in a two room building, braiding the ropes into rugs for home use. Today, his mill, operated by his three sons, is the oldest and largest manufacturer of braided rugs in the world" (Lassiter, p. 238). Another resident of Troy was Joseph Reese Blair (d. 1914), a "scrapping young lawyer" who married Miss Ada Allen, daughter of G. W. Allen, in 1904 (Lassiter, p. 240). Blair was well known in state politics serving in Raleigh as a representative and a senator. Mr. Blair died in 1914 after suffering a stroke at the courthouse. Dr. Alexander Frank Thompson (1871-1936), received his early education in Montgomery County schools, attended Trinity College (now Duke University) in Durham, NC, in 1891-1892, and the Medical Department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in 1893-1894. After teaching school to earn tuition for further studies, he entered the Medical College of Indiana, in Indianapolis, where he received his medical degree, in 1895. That same year he married Laura Burch (1873-1909) of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; the couple moved to Troy where he opened a practice on North Main Street and they purchased the Mills House at 220 North Main Street. In 1908, he erected a brick building at the northwest corner of North Main and Smitherman streets, expanding it the following year to a four-story structure. This was the first medical clinic in Montgomery County and became widely known as "Dr. Thompson's Sanatorium." During World War I, Dr. Thompson was commissioned First Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps and served at Ft. Oglethorpe,



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Georgia. At the conclusion of the war he returned to practice in Troy, converting the sanatorium to a Doctor's Office Center. He served as president of the Montgomery County Medical Society, the American Medical Society, member of the Board of Trustees of the Montgomery County Schools, and was active in the local Masonic Order, Knights of Pythias, Junior Order of American Mechanics, and the Lions Club. In 1936, after forty-one years of family medical practice, Dr. Thompson, 65, died and was succeeded in his profession by a son, A. Frank Thompson, Jr. (Heritage, Item 826).

In 1921-23, water and sewer systems were installed in Troy and the streets were paved. Gravel for the streets came from near Beulah Hill Church and it is claimed that "gold nuggets the size of corn kernels were found in the gravel, leading to the remark that Troy's streets 'were paved with gold' " (*Heritage*, 22). Commercial growth during the 1920s brought about the transformation of Dr. Thompson's Medical Clinic to the Hotel Troy at the top of the hill from the railroad station. The hotel continued in operation until 1970.

Through the twentieth century, Troy remained a small county town populated by many residents of long standing and lineage. Set against the rugged, feral hills of the Uwharrie National Forest and the deep, sylvan cloves descending to the banks of Little River, the place preserves the ambience of a rural Piedmont city with the amenities of industrial, banking, retail and residential resources bound together by a strong architectural heritage and a determined sense of community pride.

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### SECTION 10

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Troy Downtown Historic District is shown by a heavy black line drawn on the accompanying Montgomery County Tax Map Number 7503-13, reduced to a scale of 1" = 200'.

#### Boundary Justification:

The Troy Downtown Historic District boundary is drawn to encompass the most cohesive group of historic residential resources built in the downtown area of Troy during its period of significance, 1871-1940, that contribute to the architectural and historical significance of the district and characterize the importance of its architectural and community development.

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### Photographs:

Troy Residential Historic District, Troy, Montgomery County, North Carolina  
Photographs taken by Janet K. Seapker, April 2005; Negatives: NCSHPO, Raleigh, North Carolina

A: Bruton-Allen House, 232 North Main Street, view to NE

B: Blair House, 105 Blair Street, view to NE

C: Blair House, 105 Blair Street, Garage, view to E

D: Wade-Arscott House, 214 North Main Street, view to NE

E: Mills-Thompson House, 226 North Main Street, view to NE

### Property Owners:

Tax #	Property Address	Owners Name and Address
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5543	105 Blair St.	James H. and Claudia Blair Bulthuis, 105 Blair St., Troy, NC 27371
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5085	214 N. Main St.	James H. and Claudia Blair Bulthuis, 105 Blair St., Troy, NC 27371
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6250	218 N. Main St.	George L. Thomason, 218 N. Main St., Troy, NC 27371
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6252	226 N. Main St.	George L. Thomason, 218 N. Main St., Troy, NC 27371
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6345	232 N. Main St.	Richard B. Dixon, Jr., 232 N. Main St., Troy, NC 27371
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